

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 04125 201514Z
ACTION SS-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 H-03 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /018 W
-----201559Z 103839 /56

O 201443Z MAY 77
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 4125

FOR THE ACTING SECRETARY FROM THE SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS:IOREP (STONE,IRICHARD)
SUBJ: CODEL STONE

REF: CAIRO 8439 AND 8177; STATE 114446 AND 108051

1. YOU WILL HAVE SEEN REFTELS ABOUT THE PROBLEM THAT HAS
ARISEN AS A RESULT OF SENATOR STONE'S DESIRE TO TRAVEL FROM
EGYPT TO ISRAEL ACROSS SINAI BY WAY OF A VISIT TO THE SINAI
FIELD MISSION. I AM ASKING HERMANN EILTS ((SEPTTEL) TO ASK
FAHMY ON MY BEHALF TO RECONSIDER HIS OPPOSITION TO THE
SENATOR'S TRAVEL PLANS. AT THE SAME TIME, I WOULD LIKE YOU
TO CALL SENATOR STONE ON MY BEHALF TO AKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. I HAVE ASKED AMB EILTS TO GO BACK TO FAHMY AND SEE
WHETHER HE CAN BE PERSUADED TO AGREE TO THE SENATOR'S PROPOSED
TRAVEL ACROSS SINAI. I HOPE FAHMY WILL DO SO. IT IS ALTO-
GETHER POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS
EGYPTIANS MAY SIMPLY FEEL THAT THIS IS SOMETHING
THEY CANNOT TAKE ON POLITICALLY AT THIS POINT. IF
I UNDERSTAND THEIR CONCERN CORRECTLY, THEY FEAR THAT
A TRIP SUCH AS THE SENATOR PROPOSES WILL BE INTERPRETED
AS CONCEDING THE KIND OF "OPEN BRIDGES" STEP TOWARD
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WHICH THEY FEEL IS AN
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ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATION
PROCESS AND NOT A CARD THAT SHOULD BE PLAYED IN ADVANCE
OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. EVEN IF FAHMY DOES NOT CHANGE HIS POSITION, I
EARNESTLY HOPE THAT THE SENATOR WILL RECONSIDER AND
VISIT EGYPT AS PLANNED. AMB EILTS INFORMS US

THAT PRESIDENT SADAT IS LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING THE SENATOR TO EGYPT AND THAT HE HAS ALREADY ARRANGED AN APPOINTMENT FOR THE SENATOR WITH SADAT AT 11:30 AM, ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4, IN ALEXANDRIA. EILTS REPORTS THAT SADAT RECALLS WITH PLEASURE MEETING THE SENATOR IN WASHINGTON AND IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING HIM IN EGYPT. FOR MY PART, I BELIEVE A VISIT TO EGYPT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE AND INTERESTING FOR THE SENATOR AND WOULD HELP FURTHER US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS.

4. IF FAHMY DOES CHANGE HIS MIND AND AGREES TO THE PROPOSED TRAVEL ACROSS SINAI, GIVEN THE EGYPTIAN CONCERN ABOUT POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS, I WOULD URGE THAT THE SENATOR DO WHAT HE CAN TO AVOID PUBLICITY ABOUT HIS TRAVEL AND TAKE THE POSITION THAT THIS WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL ARRANGEMENT MADE BECAUSE OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE SENATOR'S POSITION AS NEAR EAST SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, AND WAS NOT A PRECEDENT FOR A PATTERN OF SUCH TRAVEL BY OTHERS IN THE FUTURE. VANCE

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